

Dramatic Terms:

Catastrophe the same as denouement, but it occurs in a tragedy

Climax or Crisis the turning point in the play

Denouement the final unraveling of the plot, the solution of the conflict and the explanation of the outcome

Exposition, Complication, Crisis, Falling Action, Catastrophe Tragedy Structure

Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Denouement Drama Structure

Falling Action stresses the activity of the force opposing the hero or protagonist and leads logically to the disaster (tragedy) or the resolution of the conflict

Foil – a character who is used as a contrast for another character; they are used to highlight a character's weaknesses

Introduction or Exposition creates tone, gives setting, introduces the characters and supplies some of the facts necessary to understand the play

Monologue – a long uninterrupted speech spoken by a character in front of others (unlike a soliloquy which is spoken alone)

Oxymoron – (Contrast) a figure of speech using contradictory terms: "love's sweet sorrow"

Paradox contradiction that is true

"My only love, sprung from my only hate."

Prologue (before the play) served to quiet audience before beginning of a play. It introduces the themes of the play and other particulars to audience making them mentally prepared for the events they were to witness in the performance. Usually, the character who uttered the prologue was dressed in black in order to differentiate him from the rest of the actors who wore colorful costumes during their performances."

Rising Action or Complication set in motion by the exciting force

Soliloquy speech by a character while **alone** on stage for the purpose of informing the audience

Sonnet – a short, rhyming love poem which originated in Italy; Shakespeare form: 14 lines: abab cdcd efef gg. The entire poem is written in iambic pentameter

Tragedy a drama which recounts important events in the life of a person of significance. The events culminate in an unhappy catastrophe, the whole treated with dignity and seriousness.